

INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 5 SEP 51

SUBJECT Activity in the Port of Durres

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25X1

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25X1 Reconstruction and Enlargement of Durres Harbor

1. For the project of enlarging the main pier, 322 workers have been employed. They are under the direction of a Soviet engineer and two Albanian technicians. Construction is progressing rapidly and completion of the pier is expected by the end of August 1951.
2. A wharf is being reconstructed and enlarged which, when completed, will service the former AGIP depot, with a feeder pipeline for tankers; 200 workers have been employed for this project. The piles have all been driven and work on the wharf itself is nearing completion.

25X1 3. Two dredgers and two "Tanac" tugs are being used to dredge the harbor to a depth of nine meters.

25X1 4. [redacted] in enlarging the harbor two new wharves were constructed of 121 and 130 meters in length respectively. [redacted] three other wharves were finished a short time ago.

5. Two cranes, having a hoisting power of 32 and 25 tons respectively, are at Durres harbor and reportedly recently arrived from the USSR. They are not in use pending the completion of the laying of the rails on the wharf.

Shipping Activity at the Port of Durres

6. The 500-ton KERMENDI, which was built in the Durres shipyard, is a motor-ship with a wooden hull.
7. Soviet ships in the port of Durres, generally of medium or large tonnage, average five to six a month. Cargoes unloaded consist primarily of cement, foodstuffs, flour and miscellaneous material in cases of small dimensions. The ships take on hides, cotton and bitumen.
8. Between 20 and 23 March 1951, the Soviet ship SS NURMANSK arrived in Durres and unloaded two big metal cylindrical tanks, covered with anti-rust varnish, which were between 15 and 20 meters in length. These tanks, allegedly

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intended for the sugar refinery of Korca, were still in Durres on 10 April. Each had been placed on two trailers. The cylinders did not appear to bear any marking to indicate the country of manufacture.

9. In other information on shipping traffic at Durres, it was estimated that for the month of March 1951 about 37,770 tons had been unloaded. According to this information, the March tonnage represented a substantial increase over previous monthly traffic for the past year.

10. At 1600 hours on 10 April, 200 cases of ammunition, also identified [redacted] as cartridges, were reportedly on the main pier, having been unloaded the previous day by the Soviet SS CHIATURY.

11. On 10 April, the Polish ship KUTNO unloaded 600 tons of cement and other construction material.

12. Also on 10 April, the Soviet SS KRASNODAR anchored outside the harbor, which was too shallow to enter, and unloaded cargo which included 40 small jeep-like military trucks, and a large number of metal cylinders 10 to 12 meters long and 30 centimeters in diameter. The cylinders were identified [redacted] as gun barrels of 80 mm. caliber. Other cargo is believed to have included ammunition, machinery and grain.

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